Reimbursement of Money spent by Punjab Government on Upgradationof NHs

3928. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large amount of money already spent by the State of Punjab on the upgradation/maintenance of National Highways is to be reimbursed by the Central Government; and

(b) if so, by when this amount will be reimbursed to the State Government of Punjab ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 2488.59 lacs spent by the Punjab State on the upgradation/maintenance of National Highways pertaining to the years 1992-93 to 1/2000, has not been reimbursed due to non settlement of the observations raised by the Pay & Account Officer, Chandigarh and will be reimbursed in a phased manner from annual allocation of funds made to the State as and when the observations raised are complied with by the State Government.

Declaration of Ropar-Kathua Highway as National Highway

3929. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to declare Ropar-Hoshiarpur-Dasuya-Mukerian-Gurdaspur-Kathua as National Highway; and

(b) if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Disputes on Corporatisation of Ports

3930. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any serious differences of opinion cropped up between his Ministry and the Ministry of Finance over the way the ownership of land at the

ports should be treated with corporatisation of ports, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 10th April, 2000;

(b) if so, whether any final agreement so far reached in this regard between the two Ministries; and

(c) whether the Ministry of Surface Transport has drawn up any proposal for the phased corporatisation of ports as well as the participation of private sector for the development of ports in the country, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No proposal has been drawn up for phased corporatisation of Ports. The Government have decided to involve private sector in development of Major Ports in accordance with the terms and conditions contained in the guidelines issued in October, 1996.

Modernisation of Cargo Ships

3931. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propsed to modernise cargo ships to face global competition;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target and allocation made for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, In order to give continued impetus to the growth and development of shipping sector in the country, the Government have set a target to achieve 9 million Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) during 9th Plan period by acquisition of modern ships. The Shipping Corporation of India, a Public Sector Shipping Company had earlier proposed to acquire 53 vessels aggregating to 23.84 lakhs DWT during 9th Plan period for which Government has allocated an outlay of Rs. 5752 crores. The SCI has revised their acquisition programme and now propose to acquire 21 vessels aggregating to 16.85 lakhs DWT during the said period.